

GRANTS PASS URBAN TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes March 13, 2023, 6:30 PM
Ridge Room

Committee Members:

Doug Tripp, Chair
Michael Holzinger, Vice Chair - Virtual
James Love - Absent
Michael Cartmill
Nicole Kieffer - Virtual
Barbra Villona – Virtual
Diana Thornton - Absent

City/Staff/Council Liaisons:

James Pasley – Urban Forester
Joel King - City Council
Josh Hopkins – Parks Superintendent

Guests:

AGENDA:

1. Roll Call:

- a. Chair Tripp took roll and started meeting at 6:30 p.m.

2. Introductions:

a. New Staff Liaison

- James Pasley, the new Urban Forester, introduced himself. He comes from a background of commercial arboriculture and has a master's degree in Natural Resource Management for Recreation and Tourism from the University of Georgia. His experience includes pruning and removals of trees, integrated pest management, integrated vegetation management, tree risk assessment and environmental education.

3. Public Comments:

- a. None.

4. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Approval of Minutes from: February 13, 2023

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

Chair Tripp moved, and Vice Chair Holzinger seconded the motion to approve the minutes of February 13, 2023, as submitted. The vote resulted as follows: "AYES": Chair Tripp, Vice Chair Holzinger, Members Kieffer, Cartmill, and Villona. "NAYS": None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Members Love and Thornton.

The motion passed.

5. Action Items:

a. Tree Deposit Fund for Tree Planting:

- Parks Superintendent Hopkins discussed how Tree Deposit Fund was funded through the development code and how it is to be administered (planting and maintaining of trees). Council is to advise Urban Forestry Division in its administration. There is currently approximately \$64,000 in the TDF and approximately \$1,000 has been spent on purchasing 11 trees to be planted in downtown locations in April.
- Currently this is funded by tree deposits used in the land development process. Developers have found costs of planting and maintaining trees are higher than the deposit, so they leave their deposit with the city.
 - This code may be reassessed in the future.

- Discussion was had about planting costs and maintenance costs for urban trees and which location should be prioritized for this year.

MOTION TO SPEND TREE DEPOSIT FUNDS ON 30 NEW TREES IN 2023

Chair Tripp moved, and Vice Chair Holzinger seconded the motion to planting and maintaining up to 30 new trees along the downtown corridor over the next year. The vote resulted as follows: "AYES": Chair Tripp, Vice Chair Holzinger, Members Kieffer, Cartmill, and Villona. "NAYS": None. Abstain: None. Absent: Members Love and Thornton. The motion passed.

b. Tree Well Grants:

- No updates on historical or current grants

c. Storing Committee Information and Data to Teams or Dropbox:

- Parks Superintendent Hopkins gave demonstration on sharing files through Microsoft teams.

d. Arbor Day - Discussion:

- Arbor Day celebration proposed to be at 10am at Fruitdale park on April 17th. Memorial tree donors will be invited to attend along with the public, UTAC and City Council.
- Arbor Day proclamation proposed for April 19th.
- 11 trees to be planted in downtown as part of Arbor month.

e. New Committee Member Selection

- Committee reviewed applications.
- Member Villona recommended diversifying our committee with a member that was not a specialist but represented views that could be expected from the general public.
- Chair Trip expressed appreciation to all applicants for their willingness to serve and wished to acknowledge the experience and value each.

MOTION TO NOMINATE CANDIDATE CAMBRIE AS NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

Member Cartmill moved, and both Chair Tripp and Member Villona seconded the motion to nominate Candidate Cambrie to the city council as a new member of the Urban Tree Advisory Committee. The vote resulted as follows: "AYES": Chair Tripp, Vice Chair Holzinger, Members Kieffer, Cartmill, and Villona. "NAYS": None. Abstain: None. Absent: Members Love and Thornton. The motion passed.

6. Matters from Committee Members

- Member Villona brought up continuation of development code with structural soils and canopy coverage.
 - Council will be discussing this in their workshop on March 20th with representatives from the tree committee as well as other committees.

- Parks Superintendent Hopkins suggested to put off and add to next meeting's agenda items.

7. Matters from Staff

- Councilor King to begin process of drafting an updated Urban Forest Management Plan
 - Plan to have a draft chapter ready for review by Urban Forester and Tree Committee
 - Potential to have the Plan ready to propose to council within six months.

8. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting

- a. Tree Deposit Funding for Tree Planting
- b. Parking Lots - Structural Soils / Tree Canopy Coverage
- c. Urban Forest Management Plan – Chapter 1

9. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:43 pm

Next Meeting: April 10, 2023, at 6:30 PM

Minutes prepared by James Pasley, Urban Forester